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COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

LETTER FROM M. LOUIS SAILLANT, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

(Circulated to the members of the Council for their information in pursuance of paragraph 2 of Chapter IV of the Report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-governmental organizations approved by the Council on 21 June 1946 - E/43/Rev.2 1 July 1946).

A.E.S.No. 635 12 July 1946

Mr. Trjgve Lie
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Hunter College
Bronx 63, New York

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions, meeting in Moscow during the second half of June, made a detailed study of the question of the participation of the World Federation of Trade Unions in the work of the United Nations and of the state of the negotiations which have been taking place regarding this matter since February 1945.

The Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions has taken note of the unofficial information, which has reached it by word of mouth through several of its members, on the latest stage of the question and on the very recent decision of the Economic and Social Council, according to which-

(1) The World Federation of Trade Unions will be entitled to send obeservers to meetings of the Economic and Social Council.

(2) Representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions may be heard by a particular committee specially set up for the purpose by the

Economic and Social Council and directly dependent upon the latter.

The members of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions were unanimous in considering that the above-mentioned decision of the Economic and Social Council did not satisfy the just claims of the World Federation of Trade Unions. They felt that it was inconceivable that the World Federation of Trade Unions, the most representative body of workers of the world, should occupy an inferior position amongst the organs of the United Nations or play a role of secondary importance in the work of the Organization.

The Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions has, however, interpreted the decision of the Economic and Social Council as conferring a right on the W.F.T.U. first to state an opinion within an intermediary organ whilst leaving open the possibility of access to the Economic and Social Council itself.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. nevertheless unanimously decided to continue its efforts to secure for the World Trade Union movement its legitimate place within the United Nations.

In token of the desire of its members to make every effort for the achievement of a satisfactory solution, the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. has decided that the executive officers of the W.F.T.U. will hold a meeting in September next in the United States at the time of the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations when the W.F.T.U. proposes to place the matter of its participation in the work of the United Nations before that Assembly.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. has moreover decided to issue an appeal, the text of which is enclosed, that this problem be placed before the workers of the world, before the Trade Unions and the democratic organizations since it is deeply convinced of the justice of its claims and feels that they correspond to the unanimous wish of the peoples.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(signed) L. Saillant

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
A P P E A L
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD, TO ALL TRADE UNIONS AND ALL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS

As a result of the combined efforts of the peoples of United Nations, and in particular through the sacrifices borne by the soldiers and organized workers of these peoples, a decisive victory has been won over Hitlerite Germany, Imperialist Japan, and Fascist Italy, the worst enemies of liberty and democracy and thus an evil conspiracy to enslave mankind has been decisively defeated.

This recent past as well as the immense reconstructive effort which the working class is making in the world give this class a very special right to take part in the building of a peace which should guarantee world security and, by international co-operation, free mankind from want.

The working class is the most steadfast support and the surest guarantee of the work of peace.

Well aware of its duties and responsibilities, the organized working class has, ever since the foundation of the United Nations, requested effective participation in the building and maintenance of peace through its most representative organization, the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, (W.F.T.U.) which represents more than 67 million workers belonging to 64 national trade union organizations in 55 countries.

The first application to this effect was made in London in February 1945 when the World Trade Union Conference was held. In May 1945 a new application was made at the San Francisco Conference of United Nations Two further applications were made one in December 1945 and the other in February 1946 whereby the World Federation of Trade Unions requested participation in the work of United Nations as a fully privileged representative.

After spending much time in the attempt to find a solution the Economic and Social Council of United Nations has just granted the W.F.T.U. the right to send observers to meetings of the Economic and Social Council and has furthermore set up a special committee dependent on the Economic and Social

Council to hear representatives of the W.F.T.U.

During its session held in Moscow in June 1946 the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. debated this important question.

The members of the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. are unanimously of the opinion that the above mentioned decision of the Economic and Social Council is not satisfactory. They think that it is wrong that the most representative organization of the workers of the world with the unique characteristic of universality cannot take an effective part in the work of the United Nations where problems of world security and international co-operation in all its aspects are debated.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. would like however to interpret the decision of the Economic and Social Council as meaning that the W.F.T.U. will in the first place be entitled to state its view in an intermediary body, whilst being free to have access to the Economic and Social Council itself.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. would like to state once again that it cannot admit that the W.F.T.U. should hold an inferior part, and demands full application of Article 71 of United Nations Charter. It justly claims that the W.F.T.U. should occupy the position which it deserves through the valuable services which it is called upon to render to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. is gratified to note that the representatives of the Governments of the USSR, France, China, Poland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and other countries have in all the discussions concerning participation of the W.F.T.U. in the work of the United Nations shown their solidarity with the workers of the world and very wide understanding of the noble and lofty aims of the W.F.T.U. On the other hand the Executive Committee is opposed to the policy hitherto pursued by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom with regard to full representation of the W.F.T.U. in United Nations.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. notes with satisfaction the steps taken in the United States by the CIO and in the United Kingdom by the TUC

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for the purpose of influencing their Governments to view favourably the practical participation of the W.F.T.U. in the United Nations.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. looks to the CIO and TUC for the continuation of their efforts in this direction.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. is convinced that the joint efforts of the trade union organizations of the workers of the world will result in securing for the World Trade Union movement the position to which it is justly entitled within the United Nations.

With a view to achieving the realization of their just claims the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. decided that the next meeting of its executive officers would take place in September 1946 in the United States at the time when the General Assembly of the United Nations is being held. The Executive officers will enter into new negotiations in New York in order to achieve a satisfactory solution.

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. requests every national trade union body to support the position of the W.F.T.U. by sending resolutions asking for the participation of the W.F.T.U. in the work of the United Nations direct to United Nations next September.

Further the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. recommends the National Trade Union Organizations to hold mass demonstrations in support of the claims of the W.F.T.U. and to promote any other appropriate measures, suitable in their country, towards the realization of this purpose.

The Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions is confident that this appeal will find an enthusiastic echo and meet with vigorous support from all the workers of the world in all the trade unions and all other democratic organizations.